ABSTRACT

In a digital image padding method according to the present invention, as shown in figure 2, every other pixels in an original image space 301 corresponding to an input digital image signal are extracted in the horizontal direction, and every other pixels are extracted in the vertical direction, the extracted plural pixels are rearranged to form four small image spaces 401-404, and pixels values in these small image spaces are padded.

In the digital image padding method thus constructed, padding of pixel values is performed to plural small image spaces where there is high correlation of pixel values between adjacent scanning lines rather than to an original image space where there is low correlation of pixel values between adjacent scanning lines. That is, in the padded small image spaces, there is high correlation of the pixel values. As a result, it is possible to avoid introduction of high-frequency components into the digital image signal of the interlaced image, and hence, differential coding or differential decoding can be performed to the interlaced image or the like with high coding efficiency while suppressing degradation of coding efficiency resulting from padding.